



Sheila Dixon
President,
Baltimore City Council

100 N. Holliday Street, Room 400 • Baltimore Maryland 21202
410-396-4804 • Fax: 410-539-0647

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CONTACT:
Ruffin Brown
443-984-3808 (desk)

Mayor Sheila Dixon Completes Team to Administer Health Programs, Policies and Initiatives

*Program Experience of Sharfstein, Stewart and Wood to Strengthen
Dixon's Vision for Comprehensive Health Services*

Baltimore, MD (January 4, 2007) – Incoming Mayor Sheila Dixon continued assembling her Cabinet today with the announcement that Dr. Joshua M. Sharfstein, John P. Stewart and Nollie P. Wood have been retained to lead the City's Health Department, Aging and Disabilities Commissions, respectively.

"Dr. Sharfstein possesses the same sense of urgency for improving Baltimore's health as I do. We also share the belief that preventive health and wellness measures are the first steps to preventing many of the larger problems that start in youth and continue through our lives," said Mayor-designee Sheila Dixon. "As I prepare to lead the City of Baltimore, with Josh overseeing my health agenda, I'm confident that Baltimore will continue to get healthier."

Dr. Sharfstein is an accomplished physician with a diverse and extensive history of leadership in public health organizations. After graduating from Harvard Medical School, he forged an impressive path of public health reform, advocacy and outreach that perfectly qualify him to take on the challenges that leading the oldest health department in the United States present. His experience with Congressman Waxman on Capitol Hill gives him an added dimension when considering public policy for the city.

"With an estimated 20% of the population of Baltimore City polling as senior citizens, the Commission for Aging and Retirement Education has become an increasingly important policy and advocacy group in City Hall," said Dixon. "John Stewart has the training, the education and the experience to continue to lead one of the most active and stable constituencies in the City."

John Stewart has over thirty-five years of successful executive management experience in the conception, funding, implementation and operations of innovative government assistance programs, services and delivery systems in public assistance, healthcare and long-term care, disability and aging services at the federal, state and local level. John's experiences include over 16 years working at the senior administrative level in the Maryland State Department of Health and Mental Hygiene.

“As we reengineer and modernize our communities to meet our contemporary needs, we must make sure that the entire community is at the table, providing input to take advantage of all our talents,” commented Dixon. “As a psychiatric epidemiologist, health administrator and psychologist, Dr. Wood brings a researched and studied perspective that is invaluable in his position as Executive Director of the Commission on Disabilities.”

By assigning the health and social services agencies under the new Deputy Mayor for Community and Human Development, Mayor-designee Dixon’s objective is to create a structure that will best facilitate the implementation of the priorities and initiatives of her Administration.

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